

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The differential apparatus according to claim 7-4,
wherein the junction includes a first connecting wall that is formed between the pinion shafts being adjacent to each other in a rotational direction of the rotary member,
and the first connecting wall restricts an axial movement of one of the pinion shafts relative to the other of the pinion shafts, and
wherein the junction includes a second connecting wall that is formed between the pinion shafts being adjacent to each other in a rotational direction of the rotary member,
and the second connecting wall restricts a rotational movement of one of the pinion shafts relative to the other of the pinion shafts.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The differential apparatus according to claim 7-4, wherein at least one of the pinion shafts is formed symmetrically ~~symmetry~~ to a rotational axis of the rotary member.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) ~~A The differential apparatus according to claim 5, comprising:~~
pinion shafts radially arranged on a rotary member, wherein the pinion shafts comprise:
a long pinion shaft, and
two short pinion shafts respectively connected with the long pinion shaft at right
angles thereto;
pinions rotatably supported on the pinion shafts respectively;
a pair of side gears meshing with the pinions, and disposed coaxially with the rotary member; and

a junction, at which the pinion shafts are connected to each other by themselves,
wherein the long pinion shaft has a hole, and said short pinion shafts ~~have~~ ~~has~~ ~~a~~
projections formed on respective its ~~axial ends~~ of the short pinion shafts, and
wherein the projections are ~~is~~ inserted in the hole so that the long pinion shaft and
the short pinion shafts are connected to each other.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ differential apparatus ~~according to claim 5,~~ comprising:
pinion shafts radially arranged on a rotary member, wherein the pinion shafts comprise:
a long pinion shaft, and
a short pinion shaft connected with the long pinion shaft at a right angle thereto;
pinions rotatably supported on the pinion shafts respectively;
a pair of side gears meshing with the pinions, and disposed coaxially with the rotary
member; and
a junction, at which the pinion shafts are connected to each other by themselves,
wherein the long pinion shaft has a small diameter portion, and the short pinion shaft has
an arcuate groove formed at its axial end, and
wherein the arcuate groove contacts a peripheral surface of the small diameter portion.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ differential apparatus ~~according to claim 5,~~ comprising:
pinion shafts radially arranged on a rotary member, wherein the pinion shafts comprise:
a long pinion shaft, and
two short pinion shafts respectively connected with the long pinion shaft at right
angles thereto;
pinions rotatably supported on the pinion shafts respectively;
a pair of side gears meshing with the pinions, and disposed coaxially with the rotary
member; and
a junction, at which the pinion shafts are connected to each other by themselves,
wherein a pair of grooves, including bottom surfaces, are formed in the long pinion shaft,
and
wherein the bottom surfaces of the pair of grooves contact axial end surfaces of the short
pinion shafts, and each of the axial end surfaces of the short pinion shafts has a
circular shape.

10. (Currently Amended) The differential apparatus according to claim 7-4,
wherein the rotary member includes an outer rotary member and an inner rotary member,
the inner rotary member is movably fitted in the outer rotary member and capable of
being connected with and disconnected from the outer rotary member by a clutch
tooth, and
the pinion shafts are radially arranged on the inner rotary member.
11. (Currently Amended) The differential apparatus according to claim 7-4, wherein a clutch
tooth is provided on at least one of the side gears and capable of being connected with and
disconnected from the rotary member.
12. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein the junction includes a first connecting wall that is formed between the pinion
shafts being adjacent each other in a rotational direction of the rotary member,
and the first connecting wall restricts an axial movement of one of the pinion
shafts relative to the other of the pinion shafts, and
wherein the junction includes a second connecting wall that is formed between the pinion
shafts being adjacent each other in a rotational direction of the rotary member,
and the second connecting wall restricts a rotational movement of one of the
pinion shafts relative to the other of the pinion shafts.
13. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the pinion
shafts is formed symmetrically to a rotational axis of the rotary member.
14. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein the rotary member includes an outer rotary member and an inner rotary member,
the inner rotary member is movably fitted in the outer rotary member and capable of
being connected with and disconnected from the outer rotary member by a clutch
tooth, and
the pinion shafts are radially arranged on the inner rotary member.
15. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a clutch tooth is provided on
at least one of the side gears and capable of being connected with and disconnected from the
rotary member.

16. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein the junction includes a first connecting wall that is formed between the pinion shafts being adjacent each other in a rotational direction of the rotary member, and the first connecting wall restricts an axial movement of one of the pinion shafts relative to the other of the pinion shafts, and
wherein the junction includes a second connecting wall that is formed between the pinion shafts being adjacent each other in a rotational direction of the rotary member, and the second connecting wall restricts a rotational movement of one of the pinion shafts relative to the other of the pinion shafts.
17. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the pinion shafts is formed symmetrically to a rotational axis of the rotary member.
18. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein the rotary member includes an outer rotary member and an inner rotary member, the inner rotary member is movably fitted in the outer rotary member and capable of being connected with and disconnected from the outer rotary member by a clutch tooth, and
the pinion shafts are radially arranged on the inner rotary member.
19. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a clutch tooth is provided on at least one of the side gears and capable of being connected with and disconnected from the rotary member.
20. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said two short pinion shafts have a common configuration.

21. (New) A differential apparatus, comprising:

- a long pinion shaft radially arranged in a rotary member;
- a first short pinion shaft radially arranged in the rotary member;
- a second short pinion shaft radially arranged in the rotary member and having an identical configuration with the first short pinion shaft;
- pinions rotatably supported on the respective pinion shafts;
- a pair of side gears meshing with the pinions, and disposed coaxially with the rotary member; and
- a junction, at which one side of the first short pinion shaft in an axial direction of the first short pinion shaft is connected to the long pinion shaft, and one side of the second short pinion shaft is connected to the long pinion shaft;
- a first fixing member that unrotatably fixes the first short pinion shaft to the rotary member at the other side of the first short pinion shaft; and
- a second fixing member that unrotatably fixes the second short pinion shaft to the rotary member at the other side of the second short pinion shaft.

22. (New) The differential apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first fixing member is a first pin, and the second fixing member is a second pin.